

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A disc reproducing apparatus having a screen display control unit controlling display of a prepared screen, said screen display control unit comprising:
  - mode setting means for setting, in accordance with externally provided instruction information, one of a screen display mode and a screen blanking mode; and
  - control means for permitting output of a display signal to said prepared screen when said screen display mode is set by said mode setting means and inhibiting output of the display signal to said screen when said screen blanking mode is set by said mode setting means, wherein said permitting and said inhibiting are in a case where audio information is reproduced from a disc.
2. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a key input unit configured to be externally operated;
  - wherein said screen display control unit further comprises:
    - key determination means for determining, when said screen blanking mode is set and said key input unit is externally operated,
    - a type of an operated key of said key input unit; and
    - key information display means for displaying on said screen information according to the type of the key determined by said key determination means.
3. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein reproduction of said audio information is discontinued according to the type of the key determined by said key determination means.
4. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the discontinued reproduction of said audio information is resumed.

5. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said instruction information is output in response to operation of a predetermined key of said key input unit.
6. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said disc is a disc having only said audio information to be reproduced or a disc having said audio information and image information to be reproduced.
7. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising means for displaying a data item operated for indicating one of said screen display mode and said screen blanking mode.
8. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said disc is a disc having only said audio information to be reproduced or a disc having said audio information and image information to be reproduced.
9. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, further having a key input unit that is externally operated, wherein said instruction information is output in response to operation of a predetermined key of said key input unit.
10. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for displaying a data item operated for indicating one of said screen display mode and said screen blanking mode.
11. (Previously Presented) The disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said disc is a disc having only said audio information to be reproduced or a disc having said audio information and image information to be reproduced.
12. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling display of a prepared screen ~~while~~ during reproduction of a disc ~~is done~~, the method comprising:  
    setting one of a screen display mode and a screen blanking mode in accordance with externally provided instruction information;

permitting output of a display signal to said prepared screen when said screen display mode is set in said mode-setting step; and  
inhibiting output of the display signal to said screen when said screen blanking mode is set in said mode-setting step,  
wherein said permitting and said inhibiting are in a case where audio information is reproduced from said disc.